

Stacey boarded the bus from Vancouver to Osoyoos. Coming from Ottawa, she was excited to see Canada’s only pocket desert. Unfortunately, she was not here for a vacation, and was sent over to do an analysis report for Parks Canada. She was not excited to have to begin the paper work that loomed ahead.

Like with all proposals discussed, there comes a time when some are eventually put into action. The discussion around making Osoyoos and the surrounding area into a National Park was one of those proposals. As a government worker for Parks Canada, it was Stacey’s job to work with the surveyors, biologist, politicians, citizens, and so on and do an analysis.

The government has been talking about claiming this portion of land for quite a while. Because this landscape is so unique to Canada, it is important to protect it for future generations. By giving it National Park status, there would be restrictions and limitations as to what, when, where and how often infrastructure can be built, and resources can be used. Stacey knew that turning this valuable asset for Canada into a park will keep it safe for generations to come. She was also aware of the angry residents she would be meeting in several hours. Because of its uniqueness, Osoyoos relies heavily on tourism. Although becoming a National Park does not prevent people from coming to visit, it does limit the amount of companies, hotels, and tourist attractions that can be established. In the area surrounding Osoyoos, most residents are farmers, or work in the vineyards. This decision could greatly affect their careers. Knots began to form in Stacey’s stomach as she thought of what she will to deal with in the weeks to come.